AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 9, 10, and 17 as indicated below. Also, please cancel Claims 20-26 without prejudice or disclaimer as indicated below.

1. (Previously Presented) A system for assisting a user in selecting an operating system for use on an electronic device, said system comprising:

an electronic device configured to store, display, and process information under a selectable one of a plurality of operating systems, ~~the plurality of operating systems being stored on a user rewriteable storage media~~; and

program code running on said electronic device with a current operating system, the program code configured to ~~perform a method~~ determine one or more alternative operating systems available for subsequent boot processes, the program code further comprising:

~~providing a graphical user interface on a display, said display comprising a list of the plurality of operating systems available to run on said electronic device;~~

~~providing an activatible~~ a control mechanism for ~~selecting~~ choosing a selected alternative operating system for the next boot process wherein the selected alternative operating system is one of the plurality of alternative operating systems available for subsequent boot processes ~~displayed on said list~~;

~~setting a default~~ an operating system indictor stored ~~for a load utility installed~~ on said electronic device, wherein the operating system indicator identifies the selected alternative ~~to correspond to the~~ operating system ~~selected with the activatible control~~; and

a time out period setting that determines a time out period occurring during the boot sequence of the selected alternative operating system, the time out period varying based on the selected alternative operating system;

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> wherein the program code is configured to automatically close any open applications in response to the selection of the future operating system and wherein the program code is further configured to automatically ~~inducing~~ induce the electronic device to reboot for operation under the selected alternative operating system, and

> wherein, if during the next boot process, the time out period expires without the selection of a different operating system, the program code boots the selected alternative operating system identified by the operating system indictor ~~the selected operating system remains the default operating system, absent further user selection~~.

2.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the program code further implements a mechanism to allow a user to set a duration of time comprising a time out period during which the load utility pauses and allows a user to specify an operating system other than the default operating system.

3.   (Canceled)

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein a change of the default operating system causes a file containing settings for a boot menu to be modified wherein the file specifies the operating system selected.

6.   (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the program code additionally comprises a mechanism for uninstalling the program code.

7.   (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the program code additionally comprises a mechanism for reinstalling the program code.

8.   (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein an installation routine for installing the program code surveys the electronic device and determines the presence of operating systems available on said electronic device and the partition on which the operating system resides.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of launching an operating system of choice, comprising:

determining alternative operating systems that are available for a subsequent boot process and on which disk partition each alternative operating system is stored;

displaying a graphical user interface on a display, said display listing a plurality of ~~available~~ the alternative operating systems for the next boot process ~~stored on a user rewriteable storage media~~;

providing a selection mechanism for selecting an alternative operating system of choice;

~~selecting an operating system of choice via said selection mechanism; and~~

in the event the selected alternative operating system differs from a previously selected operating system, changing a time out period that occurs during the boot sequence of the selected alternative operating system;

setting the selected alternative operating system as the ~~a~~ default operating system for a load utility installed on an electronic device ~~to the operating system selected with the selection mechanism~~;

automatically ~~induced~~ closing any open applications when the selected alternative operating system differs from a previously selected operating system;

inducing a restart of the electronic device when the selected alternative operating system ~~selected~~ differs from a previously selected operating system; and

automatically booting the selective alternative operating system, if the time out period expires during without the selection of a different operating system~~wherein the selected default operating system remains the default operating system, absent further selection~~.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising <u>allowing a user to set</u> ~~setting a~~ <u>the</u> duration of ~~time comprising a~~ <u>the</u> time out period ~~during which the load utility pauses and allows a user to specify an operating system other than the default operating system~~.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising restarting the electronic device in response to an input made via an input device calling for the electronic device to restart.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising providing a mechanism for uninstalling program code that performs displaying, providing, selecting, and setting.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising providing a mechanism for reinstalling program code that performs the steps of displaying, providing, selecting, and setting.

15. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising surveying the electronic device and determining the presence of operating systems available on said electronic device and the partition on which the operating system resides.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A graphical user interface for an electronic device displayed by a boot selection program for selecting an operating system, said graphical user interface comprising:

a first display region of a graphical user interface listing a plurality of available operating systems stored on a user rewriteable storage media of the electronic device<u> wherein the listing of the plurality of alternative operating systems for subsequent boot processes is determined by surveying where each alternative operating system is stored</u>; and

a second display region of the graphical user interface including a user activatible control to select one of the ~~available~~ <u>alternative</u> operating systems,

wherein a time out period is changed if the selected alternative operating system differs from a previously selected operating system, wherein open applications are automatically closed and the selected alternative ~~a newly selected~~ operating system is automatically loaded by the electronic device when the ~~newly~~ selected alternative operating system differs from a previously selected operating system, and wherein ~~the selected default operating system remains the default operating system, absent further selection~~ the selected alternative operating system is automatically loaded during the boot process when the time out period expires without the selection of a different operating system.

18.   (Original) The user interface of claim 17, further comprising a third display region for initiating a command to restart the electronic device, said third region including user activatible controls to specify when the electronic device should restart.

19.   (Original) The user interface of claim 17, wherein the interface is displayed upon clicking an icon of a boot.

20.   (Canceled)

21.   (Canceled)

22.   (Canceled)

23.   (Canceled)

24.   (Canceled)

25.   (Canceled)

26.   (Canceled)